

**AMENDMENT**

Please amend the specification and claims as follows

**In the Specification**

Please delete the paragraph at page 9, lines 28-29 and substitute therefor the following new paragraph:

Figure 1(B) shows the same disease-free survival difference of Figure 4(A) in the sub-group of 79 axillary node-negative patients ( $p=0.0022$  by Mantel-Cox test).

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.121 a marked up version of the above-amended paragraph(s) illustrating the changes introduced by the forgoing amendment(s) are provided in Appendix B.

**In the Claims**

(Please add the following new claim:)

68. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the labeled polynucleotide sequence comprises a radioactive label, a fluorescent label, an electron-dense reagent, a colorimetric label, or a magnetic label.

69. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the labeled polynucleotide sequence comprises a biotin moiety, a dioxigenin moiety, a hapten, or an antigenic protein.

**REMARKS**

**Status of the Claims.**

Claims 1, 6-19, 23 and 45-68 are currently pending, claims 68 and 69 being added herein. For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of the currently pending claims is submitted herewith as Appendix A.

These amendments introduce no new matter. With respect to claim 68 and 69, support for the labels can be found throughout the specification at, for example, page 26, lines 4-12. Applicants respectfully request entry of these amendments prior to examination of the above-identified application.

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an introduction to the*